

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Rebecca Fitzgerald
Caryn Woodhouse

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2004
North Coast Regional Water Board
Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Status Report on the development of the Action Plan for Control of Sediment Waste Discharges as an amendment to the Basin Plan. And Status Report on the development of the Action Plans for the Albion River, Big River, Noyo River, and Ten Mile River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads as an amendment to the Basin Plan.

DISCUSSION

Regional Water Board staff are continuing to develop a regional strategy to control sediment waste discharges. The goal of the regional strategy is to control sediment waste discharges to the waters of the North Coast Region, so that water quality objectives are attained and maintained and beneficial uses are not adversely impacted by excess sediment.

Regional Water Board staff are also continuing to develop sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plans for the Albion River, Big River, Noyo River, and Ten Mile River Watersheds. The goals of the TMDL Action Plans are to control sediment discharges to the four rivers and their tributaries so that the TMDL allocations are met, sediment water quality objectives are attained, and beneficial uses are no longer adversely affected by sediment. All four watersheds are located in coastal Mendocino County.

The purpose of providing a dual presentation (regional Action Plan for Control of Sediment Waste Discharges and Sediment TMDL Action Plans for the Albion, Big, Noyo, and Ten Mile Rivers) is to update the Regional Water Board Members and the public on the status of the amendments and to provide a specific example of how the Regional Amendment might be implemented using watershed-specific examples.

The goals of the presentation are fourfold: to update Regional Water Board Members and the public on the status of both amendments, to describe the highlights of both amendments, to discuss how the regional Action Plan for the Control of Sediment Waste Discharges will be incorporated into the TMDL Action Plans, and to solicit input and direction from Regional Water Board Members. More information on each item will be presented orally at the time and place listed above. However, a brief status update for both amendments are included below.

Status Update – Action Plan for the Control of Sediment Waste Discharges

Staff have completed proposed Basin Plan language and supporting documentation for several sections of the regional Action Plan for Control of Sediment Waste Discharges. Currently staff are developing the Basin Plan language and supporting documentation for the mitigation, implementation, and compliance sections of the regional amendment. In conjunction with the regional sediment amendment, staff also are proposing to amend the Basin Plan so that a more clear and complete discussion of the requirements of the federal and state antidegradation policies is included as a general water quality objective applicable to all activities that affect water quality in the North Coast Region. The proposed Basin Plan language and much of the supporting documentation for this proposal are complete. The draft regional Action Plan and Staff Report are expected to be released for public review in September 2004, followed by several public workshops and a Regional Water Board Hearing in December 2004. The Action Plan for the Control of Sediment Waste Discharges will be considered by the Regional Water Board prior to consideration of the TMDL Action Plans.

Status Update – TMDL Action Plans for the Albion, Big, Noyo, and Ten Mile Rivers

Staff have completed proposed Basin Plan language and supporting documentation for several sections of the TMDL Action Plans, including the problem statements, water quality targets, sediment source analyses, TMDLs, load allocations, and discussions on the margin of safety. The implementation plan, monitoring plan and documentation necessary to fulfill basin planning requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) have yet to be developed. The draft Action Plans and Staff Report are expected to be released for public review in June 2004, followed by several public workshops and a Regional Water Board Hearing in January 2005. The TMDL Action Plans will be considered by the Regional Water Board following consideration of the Action Plan for the Control of Sediment Waste Discharges.

Staff are currently developing the implementation plans which will lay out the steps necessary to ensure the goals of the Action Plans are achieved. Details of the implementation plans will be presented orally to the Regional Water Board Members. The major components of the implementation plans include: (1) a focus on education and outreach to landowners on sediment control practices; (2) encouragement of landowners to develop Erosion Control Plans; (3) requirements for certain landowners to develop an Erosion Control Plan; (4) additional coordination with the County of Mendocino and other local agencies to adopt similar sediment control regulations; and (5) directing grant funds into the four watersheds for education, sediment control work, and monitoring activities.

**PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational item. No formal Board action is necessary at this time. However, staff will solicit input from Regional Water Board Members on the regional sediment amendment, the TMDL Action Plans, the implementation strategy, use of Erosion Control Plans, timeframes, and any other items as deemed appropriate.